

Abstract

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- [Mark Solonin](#)
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Secret archives of Soviet generals

Among the many letters from readers, the following came to me:
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It turned out that "there" is the site of Comrade Veremeev, well-known in some narrow circles.

Yes, it's worth reading. Aloud:

"One of the most common legends of modern Russian journalism and journalism is the legend about the inaccessibility of archives. This legend has a very wide circulation, since it is convenient to justify any fictions and conjectures with it - even if the version of events presented is rather absurd, obviously false and unrealistic..."

Not true. Law FZ-5341-1 dated 7.7.1993. "Fundamentals of the legislation of the Russian Federation on the archive fund of the Russian Federation and archives" states: "Documents of the state part of the Archival fund of the Russian Federation and reference books to them are provided for use by all legal entities and individuals." This law does not provide for any restrictions, except for some. For example, you may be denied access to documents containing information about people's personal lives (health, property status, intimate details of their personal lives) until 75 years have passed since the publication of these documents. For other documents, the relevant departments may impose a 30-year limitation period. Therefore, absolutely all documents, not

containing personal information and dating before March 1977 are available."

I cried. From black envy. People are lucky - they live in such an amazing world where the dry line of the Law determines the realities of life! It is written in the law "30 years" - and that's it. "Absolutely all documents that do not contain personal information and dated before March 1977 are available." Where is this country? I do not know such a country. As for the situation with the military archives of the Russian Federation, recently on specific "patriotic" sites, with a mocking screech and shouting characteristic of the public there, it was announced that the documents of the western military districts were declassified, from which it follows that "shit

rats are lying" . I explain the subject of "discussion". Documents of the Operational Directorate of the General Staff of the Spacecraft for 1940-1941. mostly hidden. It is no accident that I use such an "illegal" verb. They are precisely "hidden", and not legally classified. Moreover, to my request to get acquainted with the inventory of the DECLASSIFIED (note - only "declassified", while in the cheerful opinion of Mr. Veremeev everything in the Russian Federation has already been declassified up to 1977) I was answered:

"We will never show you this inventory."

Answered verbally, so "attach paper" I'm in this case I can't.

However, in addition to the documents of the highest level of government (NPO and the General Staff), there are also documents of the western military districts - the very ones on the basis of which the active fronts were deployed on the 20th of June 41st. District documents for the first half of 1941 were not available until very recently. Moreover, it was not even clear where, in what archive they were hidden. The fact is that in Russia there are at least (not counting the archives of the Navy, the archives of the NKVD and foreign intelligence) two purely military archives: the state RGVA and the departmental TsAMO. Theoretically, the documents between these archives are divided according to the "time stamp" of June 22, 1941: what was earlier should be in the RC

In fact, almost all (without the word "almost" it is impossible to describe the situation in our archives) inventories of the RGVA funds end in December 1940, and almost all inventories of TsAMO begin on June 22 (or even much later dates). Thus, the period of the first half of 1941, which was most significant for understanding Stalin's real military-political plans, fell completely.

This is exactly what I have repeatedly informed the readers of my books, the last of which ("Brain Name") was handed over to the publishing house in April 2008. By now, the situation has really changed. Documents of the military districts of the first half of 1941 were "found". For some reason,

they were found not in the RGVA, but in TsAMO, where a number of relevant funds were declassified in 2008-2009. So, in particular, the documents of the Air Force Directorate of the Leningrad Military District (about the absence of which I wrote in "June 25") were declassified by several Acts in the period from 09/12/2008 to 08/20/2009. Documents of the Air Force Directorate of the Kiev Regional Military District were declassified on 07/31/2009 d. The documents of the Operational Department of the Odessa Military District were declassified just a few weeks ago - 10/30/2009. For those who can count to ten, it should already be clear that in my books of the 2004-2008 model. the archival situation that existed at the time of their writing was quite adequately reflected.

However, much more interesting than explanations with "squealers", another question: what exactly was declassified? And how was it declassified?

Let's start, of course, with the Kyiv OVO. It was the most powerful military district (in terms of the number of tanks and divisions surpassing many European armies of that time), and it was the troops of the Southwestern Front deployed at its base that were to strike in the main operational direction of Lvov-Krakow-Katowice. In the inventory of cases of the KOVO for 1941, the main, Operations Department is completely absent. Those. in general - not a single case, not a single document! Whom to trust, dear edition? The head of the Operations Department (and in 1941 the future marshal served in this position, at that time a colonel, I.Kh. affairs - this is undoubtedly a document, and moreover - "archival") irrefutably indicates that "Stalin persecuted

away any thought of war" (G. Gorodetsky) - the operational department of the largest military district did not release a single document for six months. And was there such a department? The

second largest and most important was the left neighbor of the Kiev district, the Western OVO. for the first half of 1941 are present in the inventory of cases. These are maps of the deployment of the district troops, diagrams and descriptions of fortified areas, maps and descriptions of fortified areas on the territory of East Prussia and the so-called "governor general" (i.e. occupied Poland). one file with documents on the combat training of troops, operational plans, materials of command and staff exercises and "games". In the inventory of the files of the Operational Department of the headquarters of the Odessa Military District, plans are found to cover mobilization and deployment (presented in great detail, up to corps and URs inclusive), map rear of the district, maps of dirt roads and other entertaining information... And not a single document about what tasks the troops of the district / front were supposed to solve after their mobilization and deployment of operational groups ...

But that's not all. Little blue stamps on the last sheets of inventories silently testify to the SECONDARY CLASSIFICATION of documents in the first half of 1941! Thus, 150 cases have been declassified and classified (Act No. 704 of July 31, 2009) by the Air Force Directorate of the Kyiv Regional Military District, 52 cases. According to the Air Force Directorate of the Leningrad Military District, 36 cases were declassified and 14 cases were classified (Act No. 739 of 20.08.2009). In particular, Case No. 51 with the materials of command and staff exercises is classified. The fact of the secondary classification of archival

files of the 41st year in the year 2009 is extremely interesting. And that's why. Big archival chiefs do not get tired of repeating that there was and is no malicious intent in the classification of documents of 1941, which continues to this day, and "there is no need to look for a black cat in a dark room." They have purely technical, organizational difficulties: low-paid girls and pre-retirement aunts simply physically ^{place} do not have time to slap millions of archival files from the period of the Great Patriotic War with a "declassified" stamp. And now we see that high-ranking uncles have found the time and energy to look through the affairs of the military districts,

assess the situation, hide the most "inconvenient" documents for the reputation of the invariably peaceful Soviet Union altogether, solemnly declassify every "empty" one, leave something in the TsAMO inventory, but under the heading "secret".

And yet, much has been declassified. The severity of Russian laws (although in this case there is no need to talk about the Law) is invariably mitigated by their non-enforcement. So, in particular, a unique document was declassified (presumably due to an oversight): "Plan for the use of the Air Force of the South-Western Front" dated May 31, 1941. With handwritten signatures of Kirponos, Vashugin and Ptuhin. Declassified Directive

NPO USSR No. 503596 dated March 28, 1941, which analyzes the progress and results of the **"field trip of the headquarters of the Leningrad, Ural and Oryol military districts, during which the FRONT OFFENSIVE OPERATION** [so in the document - in capital letters] was practiced **in Karelo Finnish Theatre**. What does the Ural and Oryol districts have to do with the Karelian-Finnish theater of operations? The most direct. In accordance with the plans for the invasion of Finland ("Note from the People's Commissar of Defense of the USSR and the Chief of the General Staff of the Spacecraft to the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks - to I.V. Stalin and V.M. Molotov on Considerations for the deployment of the Red Army Armed Forces in the event of a war with Finland" No. 103203 of September 18, 1940) the North-Western Front (which had the task of **"attacking the main forces to invade central Finland, defeat the main forces of the Finnish army here and capture the central part of Finland"**) included four armies: two were deployed on the basis of troops and headquarters Leningrad Military District, the 22nd Army with headquarters from the headquarters of the Ural Military District and the 20th Army with headquarters from the Oryol District. Everything converges. Everything, if you do not take into account such a piece of paper as the Peace Treaty between the

Let us return, however, to the archives. The possibility of errors (i.e. declassification of documents in which something important can be found) was, it seems to me, taken into account and considered. Universal countermeasures have been developed.

November 30 this year TsAMO received the following directive:

"I ask you to bring to the attention of the direct executors the instruction of the head of the department for managing archival affairs in the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation of the Department of Affairs of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation, received by the Central Archive of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation, on the possibility of restricting the documents access of researchers to unclassified containing information of a negative archival nature (emphasized by me - M .S.) on military personnel of the Armed Forces (out. No. 205/6/2003 of November 17, 2009)..."

How, you ask, is it possible, while remaining within the law and constitutional order, to restrict researchers' access to **unclassified** documents? Easily! Let's continue reading this wonderful paper:

"In accordance with Article 25 of the Federal Law of October 22, 2004 No. 125-FZ "On Archives in the Russian Federation", access to archival documents containing information about the personal and family secrets of a citizen, his private life, as well as information that creates threat to his life, for a period of 75 years from the date of creation of these documents. With the written permission of a citizen, and after his death with the written permission of the heirs of this citizen, the restriction on access to archival documents may be canceled earlier than 75 years from the date of creation of these documents ... "

Yes Yes Yes. This is it, "family and personal secret." Under this "sauce" they classify cases in which emergency incidents are mentioned; the documents of the Special Departments, the Military Tribunals and the Military Prosecutor's Office are tightly classified. "The secret of personal life is sacred!" - proudly tell us the political heirs of the bloodiest regime in the history of Russia. Great. Let me explain what is at stake here.

There lived a general. He did not plow or sow, but he regularly received a salary (and not at all small) from public funds. The general lived in a luxurious state-owned apartment and vacationed at state-owned (there were no others in the USSR) resorts. The general served not in a private shop, but in the Armed Forces of the Soviet state. The state gave him the right to send his subordinates to death with one stroke of the pen. When the harsh hour of the war came, the general took tens of thousands of peasants from families, mothers, wives and children - and at the same time it never occurred to anyone to ask the opinion of "citizens or their heirs" about whether they want to serve under this general. And now, in 2009, we are told that the actions (or inactions) of that general, the orders he signed, and finally, his personal courage (or shameful cowardice) shown on the battlefield - all these are episodes of "private life"! Moreover, the general's "private life" continued after his physical death, and his grandchildren, in an incomprehensible way, became "heirs" who have the right to dispose of documents from state archives! But that's not all! Artillery of special power is being rolled out on

the field of the "archival battle": ***"Based on the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation of March 6, 1997 No. 188 "On Approval of the List of Confidential Information", the List of Confidential Information includes information about the facts, events and circumstances of a citizen's private life allowing to identify his personality (personal data)..."*** Yes, there is such a Decree. Very difficult. Its existence is rarely remembered by ordinary citizens,

but from the moment of its publication to the present day it remains the subject of controversy in the professional environment of lawyers. How to understand it and how to apply it? For example, you decided to go to Moscow. The girl in the window of the railway ticket office took your passport - what did she do with it? Where and why did I write down "information allowing to identify" your personality? You have arrived at the Kazansky railway station in Moscow. The unshaven person in the storage room again demands a passport from you and rewrites the series, number, registration data. Who and how will ensure the safety of this information, their inaccessibility to third parties? Getting rid of

things, you went - well, for example, to the Central Archive of the Moscow Region in Podolsk. There you fill out with your own hand an application with a request to be allowed to work with documents, and in this application the series, number, registration will again appear ... Theoretically, everyone who is familiar with your personal data is obliged to ensure that this information is not available to third parties; Practically, no one thinks about these tricks. And

now evaluate the possibilities that open up with an unbridled broad interpretation of Decree No. 188. Any, without exception, document of military archives contains information that allows you to "identify the identity" of at least one person - the person who signed it.

There are many Ivanovs, Kuznetsovs and Zaitsevs in Russia, but Captain Ivanov, in the position of chief of staff of such and such a regiment, who signed the operational report on August 17, 1943, is one. The only one. Accordingly, it is possible to restrict researchers' access to this summary, since it contains "personal data". And if the report indicates that the commander of the 2nd battalion, senior lieutenant Petrov, was delayed for two hours with access to the starting line ("information of a negative nature about the military personnel"), then we can't do without searching for the grandchildren of this starley ...

There is such a good expression: "smart is enough." For a minimally reasonable person, this archival shamelessness alone should be enough to understand: THEY know what they are hiding. What and why.